

2001 Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Committee Listening Session Notes

April 11 – May 4, 2001

APPC = Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Committee

MAPPC = Milwaukee Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Consortium

NCPTP = National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

PNCC = Pre-Natal Care Coordination

TPPM = Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

YRBS = Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a national survey of the CDC

Categorized by Topic with the listening session site in parentheses

Abstinence

- ◆ The Clark Square teen panel, for its media campaign, designed a poster promoting abstinence and how to renew a commitment to abstinence if you had had sex. Adults asked them to re-design it with a comprehensive message that included contraceptive information. After considering this advice the teens insisted on focusing exclusively on abstinence. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Relationship building skills must be a part of abstinence until marriage education so that kids know how to sustain relationships *after* marrying and initiating sex. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ With promotion of abstinence education, the issue of sexual abuse must be addressed. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Abstinence only funding is a mistake because the kids in my teen parent program are getting STDs. *Audience response: But abstinence only programs address HIV and other STDs. Also, other programs that provide contraception are accessible to youth.* (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ *Audience member asked the youth present what their definition of abstinence is. One teen responded that it was sexual intercourse. Discussion pursued around the theme of educating youth about the risks of oral and anal sex.* (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ *Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy* is an intense program that promotes abstaining from drugs, alcohol, sex and violence. *See section on curricula/ideas/programs.* (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ It's best if we can reach youth at the young age of 7. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ We need national campaigns on abstinence / teen pregnancy as we have for tobacco and other issues. (Madison)
- ◆ Five years ago the Up Connection could not find a single school to write a letter of support for its abstinence education project application. Now there is a waiting list of schools wanting our abstinence presentation. (Waukesha)
- ◆ Behavioral sciences provide a framework for promoting abstinence. To affect behavioral change, we need to do three things: affect attitude, give new pieces of cognitive information and impact belief systems. (Do exercises to believe I CAN be abstinent and that it's the best choice.) (Waukesha)
- ◆ Young middle school girls are willing to discuss relationships openly with an adult group facilitator in our abstinence program. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ The Postponing Sexual Involvement curriculum has been successful with the 6th graders in La Crosse. Pre and post test show that the kids exposed to the curriculum gain increasing knowledge about the importance of waiting and that sex is riskier than they thought. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ Right now I am only using the abstinence posters in our schools. I believe our health teachers are doing a good job with the subject. (Electronic)

- ◆ National abstinence speaker presenting at local school received phenomenal response. Message needs to be reinforced frequently. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We are sending mixed messages when we ask teens to be abstinent but then educate on contraception or the use of condoms for protection against STD. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We need to engage young men in abstinence education. (Milwaukee North)
- Have to teach adolescents that they have choices about when they choose to have sex and should promote sexual activity in the context of marriage and family. (Rhinelander)

APPC: Wisconsin Abstinence Education Project has applied for SPRANS funding to expand Brighter Futures Initiative

APPC: Bush's budget increases the federal abstinence education dollars

APPC: DCFS is planning for future abstinence dollars. In order to build statewide infrastructure for the promotion of abstinence, we are drafting plans to create a speakers bureau of abstaining youth. Will recruit youth of various backgrounds, including teen parent, who will speak, do theatre for other youth throughout state for free. Kids want to hear real stories from real people. Will receive stipend and scholarship.

Abuse

- ◆ Domestic abuse victims have a common history of childhood abuse. (Madison)
- ◆ SANKA is a bill that provides training for judges and law enforcement on prosecution regarding sexual assault. (Madison)
- ◆ There is a problem in the lack of consistency by district attorneys in prosecuting statutory rape and domestic abuse. (Madison)
- ◆ Sexually abused kids have special needs. Sixty percent will have a mental illness at some point. With promotion of abstinence education, this issue must be addressed. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ A commission has been formed in Milwaukee that is addressing the question of how the Milwaukee community is dealing with the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. With promotion of abstinence education, this issue must be addressed. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ We need to get the message out there that sexual assault is NOT okay. (Madison)
- ◆ Health care providers need to do more inquiries with teens regarding domestic abuse, non-consensual sex, assault and exploitation. But it's very difficult to do so. However, there are approaches that can be learned, and training is needed. By not asking, providers are passively okaying the abuse. (Madison)
- ◆ The training should also be provided for teachers, counselors, etc. . (Madison)
- ◆ Beginning May 1, 2001, professionals who provide Child Protective Services will be meeting with district attorneys regarding these issues. Contact Janelle Moberg at Dane County Human Services. (Madison)
- ◆ Up Connection has a high percentage of PNCC clients that have experienced domestic abuse and who are willing to share it the first time they meet with the PNCC coordinator. (Waukesha)
- ◆ The issue of teens, both boys and girls being victimized, is high in this region. I have been on the front line for quite some time with pregnant and parenting teens and find that between 70% and 80% of them have a history of abuse. Additionally, the age of abuse is young as 13. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ Sexual abuse causes extensive boundary problems for youth. (Eau Claire)

- ◆ A disturbing problem is the violence against teen girls that falls into the category of coercion or domestic abuse. This is part of the unfortunate trend of older men preying on teen girls and probably boys. Many of the girls are reluctant to report. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ We have a coordinated community committee working together to respond to violence. Child welfare and health departments are at the table together. Law enforcement differs by county. (Rhinelanders)
- ◆ Teens are being abused and yet the Family Violence shelter cannot house them. Child welfare won't address the problem until they consider it VERY SEVERE. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Emotional and verbal abuse are significant among some families. There is no place to send a 17 years old. They feel they have no options. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We need second chance homes for minors. Girls do not run away when they are in safe and nurturing environments. (Green Bay)
- ◆ *APPC: All 72 counties are going through a child welfare self-assessment.*

APPC: We would like to hear from those directly involved with family problems related to sexual abuse.

APPC: The Bureau of Regulation and Licensing just received training on interviewing children, specifically in group homes.

Adoption

- ◆ It's difficult to find speakers to come and talk to teen parents about adoption. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Most of the teen parent clients want to be pregnant. It's a solution to other problems; they finally have something to contribute. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ In Washington County, adoption is presented as a legitimate option, but we are one of the few. (Waukesha)
- ◆ In today's world, the parents of the birth mothers are pressuring the girls to keep the child. (Waukesha)
- ◆ Open adoptions today help teens to choose adoption. Most adoption agencies now allow for close relationships. (Waukesha)

Case Management / Subsequent Pregnancies

- ◆ Many of the youth we serve are angry, but the root of this feeling is fear, for example, fear of failure or a lack of resources. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ People working on the line need more emotional support. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Milwaukee Public Schools wants to add staff to provide linkages between teen parents and resources, to provide PNCC. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Case management for at risk teens has been very successful as a preventive measure against teen pregnancy. Our agency had tremendous success in meeting with 14 year olds and helping them to postpone pregnancy to age 18 or 19. Our funding ended and since prevention doesn't fare well we were unable to continue the program. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ In Oneida, Vilas and Florence counties, a consortium of W-2 agencies called Forward Service assures good case management. We sit down with a client and a resource person to look at needs (FS, MA, CC). (Rhinelanders)
- ◆ In Iron County, schools take a lead in case management—less through social service agencies. (Rhinelanders)
- ◆ Our programs are working but case managers don't have time to adequately address most high risk youth. (Green Bay)

- ◆ Case management should be built on programs that are already existing. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We are identifying high risk youth with a tested instrument. They are referred by school counselors, parents, etc. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We are trying to do better at reaching boys. We need advice on improving this. It's difficult to find men willing to run the program. (Green Bay)
- ◆ There is difficulty in reaching out to Hmong population. Need to build infrastructure within the community. (Green Bay)
- ◆ The YWCA is tracing cases that stay with the program (average 2-3 years) There is a low 5-8% repeat birth rate. This is a huge success due to one on one case management. Case managers have 25-35 on their caseloads. They provide resources, referrals, birth control ed. and mentoring. (Green Bay)
- ◆ There is a lack of follow up by PNCC case managers due to limited resources. Would like to have staff to follow up. (Green Bay)
- ◆ PNCC is giving referrals to POCAN home-visiting but some are not income eligible. POCAN provides home visitation but not case management. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Family systems approach is key for PNCC. Involves all of agencies in a coordinated plan. Uses collaboration. We need second chance homes for minors. Girls do not run away when they are in safe and nurturing environments. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Outagamie County uses a family training program. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Depression is a huge public health issue for teen parents. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ In preventing subsequent births, teens need support AND relationships. Case management that involves the whole family is most successful. Our agency asks specifically to include the males in family discussions. They are beckoned out of a back room, but after time passes, it becomes very natural for them to be included in issues concerning the teen daughter. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Case management is critical for youth. Private insurance agencies don't cover costs, but one agency in Green Bay does bill insurance agency. (Green Bay)

Collaboration

- ◆ The requirement for collaboration that came from the abstinence funding was difficult in the beginning but has worked out very beneficially in the long run. Best Friends / Best Men now has a community service component and a curriculum with parents. Our partners are expanding. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Waukesha is very networked with many partnerships. Up Connection is working with Public Health on issues such as preventing of subsequent pregnancies. (Waukesha)

Contraception

- Contraception is not affordable to teens. The Family Planning waiver under development must include students. (Rhinelander)
- Confidential free contraception services with an educational component should be available (Rhinelander)
- Confidentiality is a real issue due to small community. Not enough access to birth control. Youth will choose to travel just to deal with confidentiality. (Rhinelander – Forest County)
- Would like to do presumpt. Eligibility for birth control (Rhinelander-Forest county)

- Even though contraceptive information is in some human growth and development education curricula, a teacher may choose not to teach it. Some teachers are skittish about the younger students having access to information. Contraception information should be mandatory, but it's not. (Rhinelander)
- A concern that *Taking Action* mentions contraceptive education only after a teen is a parent. (Rhinelander)
- A panel of teen parents who are mostly choosing not to be abstinent is speaking to middle school students. Have to have contraceptive information available. (Green Bay)
- Latinos have a problem of not accessing a clinic for contraception because parents or relatives will see them. Some teachers allow speakers to instruct in the use of contraception; some don't. Language barriers prevent some youth from receiving adequate information on contraceptive use. (Milwaukee North)

Curricula / Ideas / Programs that Work

- ◆ *Unmasking the Sexual Con-Game* An exciting new curriculum that was developed by NCPTP and Boys Town—very well received Includes a teacher's guide and student books. Stakeholders in Racine really like it. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ *Theatre of Empowerment, Racine* Actors and a mediator present to youth. Actors do role playing and then stay in character. Mediator asks audience for advice for a certain character; actor(s) follow advice of the audience member to try the advice. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ *Wise Guys* is a curriculum for adolescent males ages 10 – 19 years old. Seven agencies from Milwaukee are being trained in using it. Contact Eric Gresnick at Milwaukee Health Dept. for more information. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ "411" is a Brown County research based pregnancy prevention program for at risk high school and middle school youth. Uses APPPS Board funding. Provides case mgmt, community outreach to families of at risk youth, group activities. Also, community education component is offered and has a huge demand. A panel presents and dispels myth is. Presenter is from outside the schools and seems to get the message across better than teachers. (Green Bay)
- ◆ The Silver Spring Neighborhood Center uses A Program Promoting Learning and Upward Development, (APPLAUD) Program. It provides one on one support for teen parents and has made a tremendous difference. There have only been 2 of 35 teen moms who have had subsequent pregnancies. The program includes home visits, caring relationships, meeting with the teen's parents, etc. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ *Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy* (FUPTP) is an intense program that promotes abstaining from drugs, alcohol, sex and violence. It is in four schools after school for 2 ½ hours every day. There is also a summer program that runs for 5 hours a day for 7 weeks. Youth are aged 9 to 16. They sign up through school or they are referred to the program. The program involves families and offers a sustained commitment. Kids enter at age 10 and stay with the program. FUPTP helps identify resources for parents of teens, too. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Madison has 1 or 4 national grants for a program called *Girl Neighborhood Power*. Madison Public Health is involved, by requirement of the grantor. The program is for ages 9-14. (Madison)
- ◆ A program called 411 provides case management, community outreach and education for high risk middle school youth.

Faith Communities

- Some ministerial communities feel they are already addressing the needs of youth. They don't stretch beyond the congregation (Rhinelander-Oneida County)

- Faith community funding cannot stretch beyond congregation (Rhinelanders)
- Iron County has a contact with Catholic Social Services and works with a Lutheran minister (Rhinelanders-Iron Co)
- AODA / MH Advisory Board includes physicians, clergy, etc. The goal is to learn what is going on in the outer sectors of the community

APPC: Robert Wood is funding grants for interfaith community activities for youth. Has to be a NEW program.

Foster Care Youth – How are they included?

- Some are referred through social services (Rhinelanders)
- Community Reinvestment dollars are intended for foster care youth (Rhinelanders)

Funding

- ◆ YWCA—we need the financial resources to put action steps from WI Plan in place. Match is difficult to come up with. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Startup funds are important. They help to leverage money locally if we are able to show start up commitment from state or feds. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Requirements that local match not be a state or federal funding source is a problem. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We need support of local government budget, and there is no money right now. Sustainability is difficult.. (Green Bay)

APPC: Talk to your county government about IV E incentive money that goes to county governments. These are to encourage community collaboration. Get networked in as a community provider. Contact county Human Services Director and Safe and Stable Families Program Director.

Legislators

- ◆ Racine County held a legislative luncheon for local legislators. Every one of them attended. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ We need more emphasis on males and their responsibility. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ *Wise Guys* Curriculum is available (see curriculum section) (Milwaukee South)

Males

- ◆ There is a need for a task force on males. (Madison)
- ◆ We need to begin outreach earlier, especially with young men. We need to be stricter on the garnishing of checks in order to enforce compliance of child support. We shouldn't wait until the aftermath. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ *APPLAUD* reaches men by aggressively reaching out to them, specifically asking for them in home visits. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Fathers back off because mothers want money, but then mothers don't give visitation rights. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ *Wise Guys* is a curriculum for adolescent males ages 10 – 19 years old. Seven agencies from Milwaukee are being trained in using it. Contact Eric Gresnick at Milwaukee Health Dept. for more information. (Milwaukee North)

- ◆ We need to get messages to males regarding sexuality issues. (Madison)
- ◆ Fathers are involved with all Up Connection programs. (Waukesha)
- ◆ Not a lot out there for boys other than sports. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ There are fatherhood support groups and father mentoring programs for those who are already fathers. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ We are trying to do better at reaching boys. We need advice on improving this. It's difficult to find men willing to run the program. (Green Bay)

Parents

- ◆ The Up Connection reaches 615 adults each year with the abstinence message. (Waukesha)
- ◆ Parent education is a key issue. (Waukesha)
- ◆ Good to have mother/daughter participation. More family oriented. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Difficult to get parents involved.
- ◆ YMCA has a program called Girls Night Out, involves parents. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ A program called Sister to Sister involves older girls mentoring younger at risk girls. Is very successful. (Rhinelander)

Research

- ◆ I would like to see city-based teen birth and pregnancy rates, broken down by ethnic groups. If could choose, would choose to get data more quickly and would get data by city, zip code or even by neighborhood. I understand that numbers are small but could use averages. (Madison)
- ◆ YRBS is implemented in Waukesha; not all school districts are involved. (Waukesha)
- ◆ In 1995 Oneida Health took a community health assessment. Teen pregnancy was high. As a result a community task force was established; 12 agencies work together to develop assets, promote youth development. Found funding to do another survey. Local information is key. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ City data rather than county data would help us. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Data should be released sooner so that it is real time data. It could be collected and released by counties. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Iron County is sifting through data to get a community profile and determine where services need to be emphasized. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Regarding data on early sexual involvement, communities need to be educated on what the survey results mean. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Schools are energized through survey data on early sexual activity. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Frustrated that BFI funding went to counties who haven't done well with youth at risk. What about those who have worked hard to keep numbers down? (Rhinelander)
- ◆ Use of the Search survey is critical. (Rhinelander)
- ◆ There is a border status and data collection issue with bordering states. (Rhinelander)

APPC: BFI funding is used more as an opportunity to leverage additional funding into Wisconsin.

Second Chance Homes

Here are several instances of teens who tried to seek shelter: 1) A 16 yr. Old being abused by parents; social worker/counselor saw bruising but Human Services could not help and would not allow her to stay here; 2) A 14yr. Old Hmong girl; culturally married and being abused by husband called seeking shelter but never called back; 3) An aunt brought here 15 yr. Old niece who was being abused by her mother. Social Services stated she could not stay here; 4) A 17 yr. Old pregnant with her 3rd child wanted to stay here due to domestic violence; had to find another place to stay. These are a few of the examples we could remember, although there were more. Thanks, Jodi (Electronic)

- ◆ Housing and homelessness is an issue for teen parents. They don't qualify for housing programs. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We need second chance homes for minors. Girls do not run away when they are in safe and nurturing environments. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Teen parents are manipulated by landlords when they do rent. (Green Bay)

Special Concerns

- ◆ **Illegal teens** want badly to fit in so they will follow the fad more so than other youth. *Audience response: mentorship is the solution.* (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ **Hispanic girls** are being raised to be mothers. Yet teen parenthood is an embarrassment. There is a double standard. How is a young man held accountable? (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ All **Latinos** are not the same. There is not necessarily a magic bullet for reaching our population. The important question is whether or not a youth can understand what I am trying to say. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ **Access to Contraception:** Latinos have a problem of not accessing a clinic because parents or relatives will see them. Some teachers allow speakers to instruct in the use of contraception; some don't. **Language barriers** prevent some youth from receiving adequate information on contraceptive use. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ APPC is forming a task force on **Youth with Disabilities** to address the special needs of these youth with regard to sexuality issues. (Madison)
- ◆ **Geographic sprawl** is an issue for our program. We are trying to reach youth who are urban, rural and of minority populations. It is difficult to provide specialized programming. (Waukesha)
- ◆ The Up Connection does provide abstinence education to **youth with disabilities** in collaboration with ARCH. (Waukesha)
- ◆ It is *very* difficult to find bi-lingual professionals to work with programs for **Hispanics**. (Waukesha) (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ There is difficulty in reaching out to **Hmong** population. Need to build infrastructure within the community. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Is it right to force our values on the **Hmong** community? (Green Bay)
- ◆ **Hmong** kids are encouraged by elders to get married at ages 14 and 15. But there are circumstances of abuse. Young married girls are forced to be almost a servant to the in-law's family. Workers are stuck due to cultural issues. (Green Bay)

- ◆ **Undocumented migrant youth** don't attend school or get PNCC care. However, WIC does serve undocumented youth.. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Catholic Hospitals have to accept **undocumented** patients so they are bombarded. They are not receiving funding to assist. (Green Bay)
- ◆ **Undocumented Hispanic men** are fathering teen babies. The teen is afraid to go to CS because the father will get reported to INS and then the teen will lose all support. (Green Bay)
- ◆ There are few models of successful marriages for **African American children** (living in impoverished neighborhoods). Therefore, there is an attitude that there is nothing wrong with births to unwed mothers. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Birth rates among **African Americans** are at a 20 year low. Youth are being surrounded with positive messages and attitudes. Education is increasing. (Milwaukee North)

APPC: APPC formed task forces to make recommendations for special populations of youth. These included youth of ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities.

TANF / Badger Care / Medical Assistance

- ◆ We have had a problem with W-2 offices only giving services that teen clients specifically ask for. *Audience response: youth need a list to go through of services, a facilitated interview. But W-2 offices are concerned that youth will say yes to everything.* (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Some programs allow only TANF eligible youth to attend, pooling them all together in a separate group. This is ineffective as youth don't want to be identified in such a way. *Other audience members encouraged this agency to use match money from other sources to create programs for all youth.* (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ TANF requires tracking of income levels. Therefore, a program such as a youth center must ask for private information on a membership application. Some youth or parents are embarrassed to give low-income status; others can't give their SS#. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Racine W-2 office has eliminated the "light touch" approach of only offering the services that clients specifically know to ask for. Now, W-2 workers interview clients to learn of their situations and identify the needs they can meet. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Teen mothers withhold the identity of the fathers for many reasons. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ We need to be stricter on the garnishing of checks in order to enforce compliance of child support. We shouldn't wait until the aftermath. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Teen Health care and care for youth ages 6 to 19 are not available for those whose families don't qualify for Badger Care. Some kids can't be involved with sports because they have no insurance and can't afford a physical. (Madison) (Waukesha)
- ◆ Healthy Start should cover youth ages 0-18 for families whose income levels are at up to 185% of the federal poverty level. *Audience response: an issue is that so many families will choose to take advantage of this that private insurance will be crowded out of business.* (Madison)
- ◆ In Clark County, the W2 agency will not ask whether the teen is eligible for Badger Care, PNCC, Healthy Start, etc. This problem also exists in Monroe County. Things are somewhat better in La Crosse, Taylor and Wood Counties. (Eau Claire)
- ◆ PNCC is available only to MA eligible. Teens over the income limits fall through the cracks. (Green Bay)

- ◆ We need to mobilize insurance companies to cover PNCC case management. Will cover PN services but not case management. (Green Bay)
- ◆ We often don't see teen parents until AFTER the baby is born, when the baby is eligible for WIC. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Teens are not assertive. If they are told they are not eligible for something, they stop pursuing it. (Green Bay)
- ◆ In Brown County, PNCC coverage through insurance co. has been more successful. Program focused only on teens. (Green Bay)
- ◆ PNCC refers to W-2 but it is a long tedious process. Not open or helpful. Not teen friendly. (Green Bay)
- ◆ MA eligible clients don't have good access to dental care. (Green Bay)

APPC: PNCC, local child welfare and W-2 –need better linkages

APPC: We are rethinking how we run dental services for M.A. WE want to create non-profit run dental providers which are staffed by dental students or salaried dentists, with the state paying off student loans to persons who work in the clinics.

Electronic letter on TANF / Badger Care / Medical Assistance

Sue Dreyfus asked me to email specific examples regarding pregnant teens who were not able to be covered under Prenatal Care Coordination in the Fox Valley Area.

The first example is teens who are covered by their parents health insurance. In this area health insurances are not covering PNCC for any age. The second example is a teen under the age of 18 whose parents are over income for medical assistance/Healthy Start. Even if they have insurance that will not cover the pregnancy.

Many times these instances are discovered after the baby is born, because prior to that the parents income is used to determine WIC eligibility. Once the baby is born, the baby is eligible for WIC and the grandparents income is not considered. If a situation like this is discovered during pregnancy, the teen can be followed under Public Health. The problem is finding the teens in need when there is no point of entry to determine these barriers, for example WIC or Healthy Start as income excludes them automatically from these programs.

If you have any questions my phone number is : 920-832-5100. Thanks, Cindy Brylski RN, IBCLC, Outagamie County Public Health

Electronic letter on TANF / Badger Care / Medical Assistance

Late April 2001 I had a lady come into my office requesting info re: birth control – preferably IUD or Norplant – she had a significant medical hx. I felt she needed to see her regular MD; she had a Medicare card and also a Medicaid/BC (blue forward) card. I called the automated voice response system but it said she was not eligible. She stated she was on MA until she bought a trailer house 1 1/2-2 years ago and then they took her off MA. Her monthly income (SSI) is \$377 and her daughter's is \$183/month. I called the economic support worker who wasn't in – after playing phone tag a couple of days, I reached her – she was unsure why she was off MA/BC so she had me talk to her daughter's economic support worker. That worker stated buying a trailer house shouldn't have taken her off MA/BC if she's living in it. She stated this lady qualified for MA/BC but stated the computer wouldn't let her enter it so she would do it manually and the MA/BC would be in effect back to 3-1-2001. I then wrote the lady a note explaining she would have MA/BC coverage backdated to 3-1-2001.

Many clients on MA/BC complain that our county's economic support workers do not offer other available resources to clients. If the clients don't ask, the workers don't tell of other resources (i.e. food stamps, reimbursement for mileage to MD appts through MA/BC, etc)

Darla Abel – Reproductive Health Nurse, Clark County Health Dept

Teen Comments

- Some kids are just stubborn so no matter what you do to try to reach them, they are going to participate in risky behavior anyhow. (Milwaukee South)
- Peer pressure is important and is an effective tool when used the right way. (Milwaukee South)

Teen Parents

- ◆ A Teen Parents Speaker's Bureau is forming in the Clark Square Neighborhood, a partner project with MAPPC. Clark Square is doing a good job with teen led action steps. A panel of teen leaders has been formed and a media campaign on drugs and sex is underway. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Reaching out to siblings of teen parents is definitely a focus of some programs. Needs to be an issue with PNCC. (Milwaukee North)
- ◆ Many teen parents come from families that are so dysfunctional that the teen is parenting her mother. There are issues of mental illness, drugs and alcohol. The teen is holding the family together; then she gets pregnant. (Waukesha)
- ◆ GEDs and HSEDs are not the equivalents of a regular high school diploma. If at all possible, teen parents should be encouraged and helped to finish regular school. (Green Bay)
- ◆ GED pushes 16 year old into adult world even faster. More support in school is needed. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Teens aren't learning as well with GED. Home schooling is also a problem. Adult parents are not really doing the schooling. Currently there are no regulations on home schooling. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Truancy starts in middle school and is a predictor of teen pregnancy. (Green Bay)
- ◆ Schools suspend students for being truant. They finally come back to school and then get sent home for being truant. (Green Bay)
- ◆ When schools can't afford alternative schooling, they need to offer flexible scheduling. (Green Bay)
- ◆ School guidance counselors are not educated on the needs of teen parents and the laws. (Green Bay)

- ◆ In Forest County, there is a problem with low self-esteem and teens getting pregnant to fulfill a need for love (Rhinelanders)
- ◆ In Oneida County there is an increase in home schooling for parenting teens. There is also a resource center that works with parenting teens (Rhinelanders)

Youth Development

- ◆ Racine Co. is moving toward youth development rather than focusing on risks. Recommendation: keep moving in this direction of asset development (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Applications to the Milwaukee BFI office showed an emphasis on peer to peer approaches. Evolution of youth development is leading toward serving whole families, not just youth. Programs are becoming more neighborhood or community centered. (Milwaukee North)
- Youth development approach with schools provides a way for health educators to get into classrooms to talk about real issues. (Rhinelanders)
- Forest County has an after school program for at risk youth. Tutoring is offered for 5-8 grade. Life skill activities are included. Very few youth admit sexual activity or drinking. (Rhinelanders)
- There's a problem with no room at schools for after school programs (Rhinelanders)
- Iron County is doing Search Institute asset building and family preservation. Teen pregnancy is on the increase, and there are high AODA problems because youth don't see a future in Iron County due to unemployment. (Rhinelanders) Youth feeling valued is an issue.
- There is a lack of hope for the future. (Rhinelanders)

Electronic Letter on youth involvement

In doing a quick review of the TAKING ACTION – The Wisconsin Plan To Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy, Good intentions will not make the plan a success. I didn't see any key stakeholder (adolescent/teen/youth) representation on any of the work groups or committees.

For any plan to succeed, the stakeholder should have an input. Too often we, the adult, proceeds to make all the decisions from planning, development, to implementation and then wonders why it didn't work. The adolescents/teens/youth must be engaged from the beginning of the process.

General Comments

- ◆ MAPPC has published a full calendar of TPPM events being held throughout the month of May. Their kickoff event was May 9. (Milwaukee South)
- ◆ Art is an avenue of expression and it is important in its ability to guard against teen pregnancy. (Waukesha)

Electronic Letter on several topics

We need to get males more involved in understanding their role in female-male relationship and taking responsibility for preventing STD's and/or pregnancy by the use of condoms, foam/gel, encourage females to get on oral contraceptives or Depo and abstinence. More men need to be better and more visible as role models for abstaining, saying no to sex, drugs, alcohol and tobacco as well as making responsible choices which include being willing to share the responsibility in using birth control and STD's prevention.

Family Planning, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and health departments all need to begin, if they have not already, to increase their presentations in schools regarding; abstinence, saying No, peer pressure, teen dating/relationships, responsible choices/decisions, choices and consequences, STD's, STD statistics for your county/area, and birth control methods, if allowed.

We also need to educate our communities about the above issues and continue to encourage parents to talk to their children about making choices, consequences, and to encourage responsible behavior. We need to give parents the information they need (if they don't have it) to talk to their children about these issues. We also need to encourage children to talk to their parents.

Even though most people prefer that teenagers not be sexually active, we need to continue to offer minors confidential reproductive health care services. If we discontinue this service we will see a sharp increase in STD's and pregnancies. Many teens will continue to have sex with or without the highly effective birth control methods that we now offer.

Thank You! Darla Abel RN; Clark County Reproductive Health Service; ccphd@co.clark.wi.us

Electronic Letter on several topics

Goal One: Advice for the Wisconsin Plan:

Be realistic. Use local data. Understand that even though the goal would be to postpone the first sexual experience until later in an adolescent life, that WHEN the decision to become sexually active, that person has the knowledge and the medical care available to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. Dealing with just abstinence is not dealing with reality. The community needs to have accurate data that includes 1st age of intercourse. They can then see if their programs, interventions are working by comparing this data every 4 years. Make a survey such as the TAP(through UW-Extension) or SEARCH survey available to ALL SCHOOL districts at no cost to the schools. Make the results available to everyone. The community can't help the schools if this information isn't shared.

Goal Two: Share successes.

The Oneida County Health Department did form a Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Task force. After a year of reviewing the programs available and the local data, we decided to implement the SEARCH survey. The schools were surprised by the results and are working on creating a caring environment. The community has gotten together and leaders see the need to develop programs for youth and have started a Capitol Campaign to bring a YMCA to the Northwoods. Parents still have no clue.

More positive programs are needed to include parents with their teenagers and pre-teenagers to talk about sensitive information such as responsible sexuality. Do not promote programs that JUST SAY NO....they don't work.

I've been working at this family planning for 18 years. The teenage years are critical. We can avoid terrible consequences if we all keep our focus on real people, real data and real solutions

Electronic Letter on several topics

I come to you as a wife, mother of three, soon-to-be grandmother, nurse and counselor to at-risk teens for 13 years, currently the Director of Options in Reproductive Care (a Title X funded reproductive health clinic,) and President of the Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (WFPRHA). In my work with at-risk teens, pregnant and parenting teens I have worked with children who are no one's priority. My motivation for my work in reproductive health care comes from a passionate desire for all children to be **the** priority in their families.

Goal One:

Advice on the Wisconsin Plan "Taking Action"

I see this as a very worthwhile and positive document and offer the following comments. I believe the greatest value in the plan is the comprehensive nature of actions to prevent teen pregnancies.

Schools and Education

I applaud the recommendations. I would take it a step further. As I understand it schools are required to have a human growth and development curriculum, but are not required to teach it. I suggest the schools be required to teach the curriculum.

Community

The overview provides key strategies for youth development. An emphasis on teen pregnancy prevention as integral to youth development is an excellent strategy.

Government

Include within government policy, barrier free access to confidential reproductive health care to adolescents.

Health Care

The emphasis on a comprehensive approach to adolescent pregnancy prevention is essential provision of confidential contraceptive services is essential. In the LaCrosse Search Institute Survey 69% of senior students indicated it was not against their values to have intercourse. Forty-two percent of the seniors had not had intercourse, 46% had engaged in intercourse four or more times. We need to provide education and skills for teens to say no to sex, but clearly we must provide services for those who choose to.

African American

I don't understand Action step one: Develop programs that promote abstinence, but understand the need for family planning in certain cases

Goal Two

Success Stories

In 2000, 16% or 945 patients cared for at Options were under the age of 18; less than 1% had an unintended pregnancy. These teens receive comprehensive physical exams including assessment and education on relationships with partners and parents, encouragement to discuss sexuality issues with parents, sexual abuse, dating violence, alcohol and tobacco, body image and nutrition, abstinence (the only 100% way to prevent pregnancy and STDs), and referral to community agencies and health care facilities for issues beyond our scope of practice.

Provided preventative education to 5,889, the majority in schools and in at-risk programs. Two hundred of these were 6th graders in the postponing sexual involvement curriculum (completed in 5 sessions), with evaluative comments like: "It is very important to wait to have sex" "I learned ways to say no to sex", "Sex is more risky than I thought", "Having sex early can hurt your life".

Challenges

Securing enough funding to provide services, maintaining a quality staff when their wages are below 50% of market.

Types of collaboration in our Region

We have very good relationships with the schools in the five counties we serve. Our community educators work with postponing sexual involvement in the sixth grade, teach STDs, healthy relationships, communication skills, and birth control in the seventh and high school grades. Having the collaborative relationships that allow us to educate at various age levels allows teens to experience our community education staff (they also work as clinic staff) as caring adults they can trust to provide accurate information, and a familiar face in the clinic if they choose to become sexually active or are concerned about a STD.

We collaborate with the Aids Resource Center, the County Health Departments, we subcontract and access the youth groups of the Coulee Region Community Action Program, provide education in the local juvenile detention center, provide education to the Hmong Seals program for high risk Hmong youth, education to the Western Wisconsin Technical School Alternative Education Program, programming to the local Family Resource Center, education to the Holmen Literacy Program.

Pregnancy prevention as part of youth development.

The Greater LaCrosse United Way in their most recent Compass 2.0 assessment defined a youth at risk category, teen pregnancy is a component. The Search Institute has conducted two surveys in the LaCrosse School district and established the beginnings of a youth development approach. As a member of the Compass 2.0 implementation group, I see this as a great opportunity to integrate teen pregnancy and build on the youth development initiatives.